

AN INSPECTOR CALLS



Revision

Including:

- Background information
- Play structure
- Act summaries
- Character profiles
- Relationships between characters
- Theme analysis
- Final message

A play by JB Priestley

- Mr Birling keeps on trying to take Sheila out of the situation by saying it's 'nothing to do with you. Run along' (pg. 17) and tells off the Inspector for 'upsetting the child like that' (pg. 21) although she is in her early twenties
- Sheila finally begins to protest that she's 'not a child, don't forget' (pg. 38) and she is being more mature than her parents in accepting her responsibility
- The parents refuse to listen to their children telling Sheila that she'd 'better keep quiet' if she had 'nothing more sensible to say' (pg. 63) although to the audience it is Mr and Mrs Birling who are being foolish and obstinate

ARTHUR AND ERIC

- Mr Birling and Eric have conflicting ideas, seen in their row about firing Eva from the company with Eric saying that he'd have 'let her stay' (pg. 16)
- Mr Birling threatens Eric towards the end with an intimidating 'get back – or I'll...' (pg.55) and the audience can see why Eric could not have approached his father when he was in trouble
- Audience also sees that Mr Birling is not very understanding or supportive to his son saying that 'some fathers... would have kicked you out of the house by now' (pg. 65) and demanding that Eric 'pay [the money] back' (pg. 65) which is the only reason he is allowing him to stay
- After the Inspector leaves, Mr Birling immediately tells Eric that he's 'the one [Mr Birling] blames' (pg. 57)
- Eric finally undermines his father, mocking that the Inspector came and put him in his place just when he was 'feeling so pleased' (pg. 58) with himself
- Mr Birling does not believe that Eric is any more than 'spoilt' so is incredulous that 'his boy is mixed up in this' (pg. 49)
- When Mr Birling asks why Eric did 'come to him about the situation, Eric replies that he's 'not the sort of father chap could go to when he's in trouble' (pg. 54), showing their estranged relationship

SYBIL AND ARTHUR

- Mrs Birling is her husband's 'social superior' (pg. 1) so she tells him off when he behaves inappropriately, e.g. 'you're not supposed to say such things' (pg. 2)

THEMES